

Bavarian News

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Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

September 20, 2006



Photo by Paula Guzman

NEVER FORGET

Members of VFW Post 10692 and Charlie Company, 1st Platoon, 7th Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy, conduct a retreat ceremony in front of the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command Headquarters at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Sept. 11. The solemn event was held in honor of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. See Page 4 for more photos.

Netzaberg ceremony ushers in historic moment

by ADRIANE FOSS
Editor

Several top U.S. Army leaders from throughout Europe and German federal and state officials gathered Friday for a monumental moment in Bavarian and U.S. Army Europe history.

U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Commander Col. Brian T. Boyle welcomed German Federal Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Finance secretaries Christian Schmidt and Karl Diller, respectively, to the ceremony lauding the construction of the Netzaberg Housing Area.

The completion of the garrison's newest housing area is a win-win for the U.S. and the state of Bavaria.

For the Army, Netzaberg will house a portion of the 3,500 Soldiers and 5,000 family members who will be stationed at Grafenwoehr by early 2009 as part of the U.S. Army Europe's transformation.

For the northern Upper Palatinate, one of Bavaria's most economically challenged regions, it solidifies thousands of local national jobs and millions of dollars in commerce.

Schmidt and Diller were joined by the Bavarian governor, Dr. Edmund



Dr. Edmund Stoiber
"This project was so important for us that we were able to put aside our differences."

See NETZABERG Page 6

TKS cable temporarily interrupted Six-channel outage begins Oct. 2, will not affect AFN stations

Telepost Kabel-Service

Six TKS cable television channels will temporarily go offline Germany-wide Oct. 2.

The duration of the outage is not expected to last more than three days in some areas. Service will be restored in many areas in only a few hours or even minutes.

The six channels effected include

AXN, BBC Prime, Extreme Sports, NASN, National Geographic and Toon Disney.

TKS technicians will do everything possible to restore the six channels to full service in all areas as soon as possible.

AFN channels and all other TKS cable television channels will not be effected.

The service interruption is the result of a mandatory transponder upgrade that must be implemented at this time.

Periodically it is necessary for cable TV providers to update the satellite encoding protocols that are used to receive certain channels.

TKS is urging subscribers to check with their neighbors to see if they are experiencing the same reception

problems before calling in a report. This would indicate that the scheduled work is still in progress and is not an isolated problem that needs to be reported.

Any other type of persistent AFN or TKS reception problem however should be immediately reported to the TKS Hotline at 01804 857 762 (0.24 Euro per call) or to a local TKS Shop.

Legionnaire's confirmed, not linked to Grafenwoehr

Europe Regional Medical Command

An individual from the Grafenwoehr community was diagnosed with Legionnaire's disease and is currently hospitalized for treatment.

Health officials in Grafenwoehr say there is no evidence that the affected individual was exposed to the bacteria in Grafenwoehr.

Because it is routine practice to investigate all cases of Legionnaire's disease to identify the

source of infection, the Grafenwoehr Safety Office, Environmental Health Officer, and Public Health Nurse are conducting an investigation.

"What we really want people to know is 'don't panic,'" said U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Health Clinic Commander Maj. Timothy Caffrey.

"This is really a disease that is very uncommon and not transmissible from human to human or animal to human. It is linked to specific environmental sources, and even those sources are uncommon," said Caffrey.

"The medical community increases its awareness, and we want to keep people informed anytime we see something like this, but we don't want people to be overly concerned," he said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Legionnaire's disease is a serious disease caused by *Legionella* bacteria that thrive in stagnant, warm water.

People get Legionnaire's disease when they breathe in mist or vapor that has been contaminated with the bacteria.

Outbreaks of this disease have been associated with cooling towers, evaporative condensers, showers, faucets, hot tubs/whirlpool spas, and other sources of aerosolized water. *Legionella* bacteria favor a temperature of 25-42 C (77-108 F) for growth.

The Grafenwoehr community has very few buildings with central air conditioning and, because the affected individual has not been in

See DISEASE Page 6

Goals-based Healthy Living program offers motivation for change

by ADRIANE FOSS
Editor

Healthy eating and living can rank fairly low on the priority list for millions of overworked, on-the-go Americans.

In a fast-paced society where customers eat three to four times a healthy food portion with three simple words—Super size me!—obesity and the resulting health problems have reached epidemic proportions.

An estimated 97 million (55 percent of all adults) are overweight. Unfortunately, the U.S. military is not immune to these problems.

They are, however, fighting back with state-of-the-art fitness facilities and programs that rival high-end civilian membership clubs.

One of those programs is the Health Living course, a six-class program designed to motivate participants to healthy eating and exercise.

But the classes aren't just for those who want to lose weight, explained course instructor and registered dietician Demetrius Willis.

"People may not necessarily be interested in weight loss," he said. "They may want to learn to eat better, or improve their family's eating habits."

Classroom instruction will cover everything from learning when and how to exercise and controlling stress levels to understanding food chemistry and how to shop for and cook healthier food.

See HEALTHY Page 6

My Opinion

Lose weight by giving up the diet cycle

bySTEPHANIE TAYLOR

Chief of Nutrition Therapy, Wuerzburg Army Hospital

This article was originally published in the Bavarian News in February 2003.

Despite buying into the latest diets, pills and potions, America as a nation continues to gain weight.

An estimated 97 million people (55 percent of all adults) are overweight. We spend \$20 billion each year on the diet industry. Yet we cannot seem to find the answer to this great

national problem.

I have seen how difficult it is to lose weight and keep it off. People try countless diets and have some success, only to be disappointed later when the weight comes back. And when it comes back, it usually does so with a vengeance.

Many people believe that if they just find the right diet, the right pill or have the right surgery, they can be skinny again. I am not convinced.

See DIETS Page 6

Q&A

What do you like *most* about fall?



Staff Sgt. Andrew Kopp
"Definitely the weather."



Sgt. Bill Myers
"My favorite thing is probably the leaves changing colors."



Geri Burns
"Of course the changing of colors, and it's sweatshirt weather!"



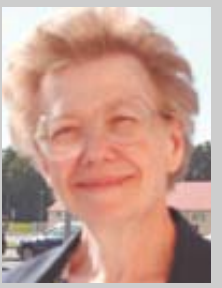
Spc. Thomas Huddleston
"My favorite thing about fall is temperatures cooling down."



Michelle Green
"Pumpkins, pumpkin candles, and all the fall colors."



Spc. Nick Green
"The World Series!"



Ruth Hanson
"The beautiful fall weather."



Pablo Cruz
"The color of the trees."

Command Message

Keep recycling services by helping to sort trash properly

The word just doesn't seem to be getting out. People continue to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please watch out for your buddies and help stop needless tragedies caused by people driving drunk.

SORTing of Trash

Probably because we have had such an influx of new people this year and because trash is treated differently in Europe than in the United States, we have noticed a large increase in unsightly recycling and trash bins all over the garrison area.

As part of your housing inprocess, DPW provided information on our SORT program. If you cannot find this information, DPW would be happy to provide it to you again.

In general, more materials are sorted in Germany than we are accustomed to in the United States. Most recycling areas have metal, glass, paper/box, "yellow bag" (plastics and others), and of course trash bins. Some locations even offer smaller bins for batteries.

The crux of the matter is recycle and trash contractors are only required to collect sorted material, and will not collect material on



the ground.

A review of some of the unsightly areas shows several trends:

- Personnel are not breaking down boxes before putting them in the paper bins.
- Recyclable materials are not being placed in the right bins.
- Bins are left open often collecting rain.
- In one case, six bins were empty, but the trash and recyclables were piled up around the outside.

Neither the garrison nor tactical units have enough Soldiers to police up these messes. Users must do so themselves. These places have become unsanitary eyesores, and conditions must improve.

I ask all of you to help me fix our trash problem or I'll have to close some of the worst ones and take away this convenience from the community members.

One final thought on this – If you have large items, the trash incinerator area on the tank trail between Grafenwoehr and Vilseck will take any items you wish to dispose, so please feel free to use it. Don't leave an old sofa or mattress on or near the trash. It won't get picked up.

Contact your school

Again, due to the large influx of students this fall and the opening of a new middle school, DODDs enrolled students without complete registration packets. But DODDs

needs a way to contact parents in case issues arise with their children.

I am well aware that one of the reasons many parents could not provide contact data was that they were not in their final homes, but I ask everyone to review contact information provided to DODDs, and go to the school to update it. School contact information is as follows:

■ Vilseck High School DSN 476-2864 / CIV 09662-83-2864

■ Vilseck Elementary School DSN 476-2812 / CIV 09662-8431

■ Grafenwoehr Middle School DSN 475-7133 / CIV 09641-83-7133

■ Grafenwoehr Elementary School 475-7133 / CIV 09641-83-7133

Children in physical fitness centers

We are generally pleased with the fitness facilities that support our community.

However, for safety reasons, children are only allowed to use portions of the facility.

We have just received new guidance from the Installation Management Agency and

See **TAKE IN** Page 3

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

For Military Spouses

Today's generation just doesn't 'join'



**JACEY
ECKHART**
On the Homefront

I used to be the one patting the doggo's knee. "It's not about you," I'd croon. "I know you lined up nine experts and stapled 200 handouts and only eight people came to the FRG. But it was good for those eight people, wasn't it?"

Those days are over, friend. The next time someone complains to me about lack of attendance at a school meeting, church group, or ship function, I swear I'm gonna snap.

"Don't you get it? We are not JOINERS!" I'm gonna holler. "We are a whole generation that does not join things. We exchange e-mail addresses. We don't attend meetings. We look stuff up on the Web site. Face it, groups-of-all-kinds, it's over. We're not that into you!"

Everyone would stare at me openmouthed. And those same eight people would form a committee to deal with my welfare.

I can't help it. Seems to me that technology has eliminated the need we used to have for all kinds of groups. The information and instruction and friendship I used to find when I went to ship meetings, I now get online.

I see this kind of progress making us all a little more capable of standing on our own two feet. So shouldn't the school and the church and the ship just recognize this, fix their Web site and quit begging our attendance?

Maybe no. Sociologist Jean Twenge says that even though I'm right that the current generation of young people are not big joiners, she says I'm dead wrong about the ultimate value of standing on your own two feet. Especially when it comes to the frequently moving, frequently stressed military family.

In her book, "Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled and More Miserable Than Ever Before, (Free Press, 2006) Twenge says that this belief that we need to stand alone all

the time even during deployment is one of the strange offshoots of being trained from toddlerhood to focus on the self instead of the group.

"We were taught to believe in ourselves and that we have to love ourselves first," said Twenge in a recent interview. "The downside of this is that the self is not a very good support mechanism. For mental health we need other people."

In the research Twenge collected for her book, she found that people with good social connections—the ones who attend meetings in person and make time for friends and eat with people who do not appear on television—consistently trump the own-two-feeters. Joiners have less anxiety, less depression, fewer physical ailments.

"Human beings are social animals," said Twenge. "We are hard-wired to need other people."

See **SOCIAL** Page 3

“The next time someone complains about lack of attendance at a school meeting or church group, I swear I’m gonna snap.”

USAREUR COMMAND MESSAGE

Want to salute your loved one for their support? Here's how

During these times of great sacrifice by Soldiers fighting the Global War on Terrorism and supporting contingencies around the world, the support provided by families and loved ones is more important than ever.

Soldiers rely heavily on the quiet encouragement and support they receive.

To recognize those who support Soldiers during times of peace and war, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army established the *Freedom Team Salute Program*.

This program gives Soldiers—active duty, Reserve, and National Guard—the opportunity to recognize parents, spouses, and employers for their support. The program may also be used to recognize veterans for their dedicated service and continued support of today's Soldiers.

To implement the Freedom Team Salute Program in the European theater, each Soldier in the Army in Europe will be given an Army decal that provides instructions on how to nominate deserving individuals for recognition.

Those who are selected for recognition will receive the program's commendation package, which includes an official Army lapel pin, a certificate of appreciation, and a letter of thanks, signed by both the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army.

I charge leaders at all levels to support the Freedom Team Salute Program. Commanders will ensure that every Soldier receives a decal and is encouraged to nominate a supporter. This is a terrific opportunity for Soldiers to salute their families for their support. It is

also an excellent way to strengthen the bond between Soldiers and civilians.

The USAREUR Freedom Team Salute Program Coordinator will soon begin distributing decals to units in the Army in Europe.

Units that need more information about the program may contact the Program Coordinator at DSN 370-3390.

*Gen. David McKiernan
Commander,
U.S. Army Europe*

Bavarian News

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Army changes NCO, officer evaluation process

by SHANE THOMAS
1st Personnel Command

The Army has changed the way officer and noncommissioned officer evaluation report forms are processed and submitted to the Department of the Army.

The new processes includes digital signature authority with the Common Access Card, activating forms via the Forms Content Management Program and changes to regulations governing the Army’s evaluation reporting system.

The implementation period to the new evaluation system began in July

and the mandatory use of the new forms begins Oct. 13.

The Army Knowledge Online portal provides Soldiers and leaders access to the enhanced evaluation system.

To obtain the forms, click on the “My Forms” tab on the AKO home page.

Users must have two programs installed on their office computers before using the new form filing procedure: PureEdge Viewer to view and complete the forms, and Silanis Approvett for digital signatures. Without the two programs, users will not be able to view, edit, route or

digitally sign evaluations. Users should contact their local Information Management Office to obtain this software and for assistance with software installation.

A variety of new capabilities for routing, reviewing and signing the evaluation form comes with the new electronic evaluation system. Each evaluator in the rating chain, including the rated Soldier, will digitally sign the report with their CAC.

Under the new process, a rated Soldier is the last person to digitally sign the electronic evaluation and the senior rater is responsible for

transmitting completed document directly to HQDA. Personnel services battalions are no longer part of the evaluation process.

The electronic history and routing capabilities provide tools for tracking and forwarding the evaluation through the rating chain.

The document history, accessed through AKO, provides continuously updated information on who has received the evaluation and the document’s current status and location. The routing tool enables the current owner of a document to forward it as an original copy to the next evaluator in the rating chain or to

the rated Soldier, as well as sending a read-only information copy to others for review.

Details on the new procedures are spelled out in Army Regulation 623-3, the “Evaluation Reporting System”, and Department of the Army Pamphlet 623-3.

Additionally, Human Resources Command has provided an extensive train the trainer package on its Evaluation’s Web site: https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/MSD/ESO/FCMP_Webpage.htm

Unit military personnel offices also have information about the new process.

Army special agents issue ‘Nigerian Scam’ warning

U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command released an advisory Aug. 31 warning Soldiers and family members of a so-called Nigerian Fraud Scam or advanced fee fraud, using unsolicited faxes, electronic-mail or letters.

The Nigerian Scam starts with someone from Nigeria, or another country, making unsolicited contact with unsuspecting victims requesting their help in disposing of gold or money recovered in Iraq, or oil revenues from Nigeria or Russia, or lottery winnings from an overseas

location.

Other contacts request help to negotiate U.S. Postal money orders or traveler’s checks that later turn out to be forgeries or counterfeit. The perpetrator uses false names or steals another person’s identity and fraudulently uses that identity.

In most instances, if victims respond to the proposals they are asked to do something to show good faith with the person who sent the original mail. In the case of money orders and traveler’s checks, the person is asked to negotiate the checks, told to keep a percentage of the funds for themselves, and to send

the remaining money to a Nigerian address.

In the case of gold or money dispositions, the victim is sometimes asked for personal identification, to include bank account numbers, or as the scam progresses, the victim is asked to send money to pay for unexpected fees (hence the name, advance fee fraud) that are needed to bribe an official or free up a process so that the gold or money can be transferred.

Soldiers and civilians who knowingly participate in the negotiation of fraudulent money orders or travel checks in furtherance

of fraud schemes are subject to Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Section 1343, *Fraud by Wire, Radio or Television*.

The title states that individuals who devise schemes to defraud, obtain money or property under false pretenses, representations or promises will be fined or imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or both.

Violators that affect financial institutions can be imprisoned not more than 30 years, fined not more than \$1 million, or both.

CID officials remind individuals to never provide personal identification, bank account numbers, or other financial information to an unsolicited

request. The unknown source could use the information to the financial harm of the victim.

Never travel to foreign locations to meet with the individuals conducting these schemes for any reason. Victims have been robbed, kidnapped, or even killed, when lured to other countries.

U.S. citizens or residents who have not suffered a financial loss and want to report a scam may forward unsolicited e-mails to the USSS at 419.fcd@uss.s.treas.gov.

U.S. citizens and residents who have suffered a financial loss should contact the nearest field office of the Secret Service by telephone.

Opinion-Editorial continued

‘Imperfect’ America still force for good in world

by DONALD H. RUMSFELD
Special to American Forces Press Service

We remember where we were that day. At 9:38 a.m., the entire Pentagon shook. I went outside and saw the horrific face of war in the 21st century. Those present could feel the heat of the flames and smell the burning jet fuel — all that remained of American Airlines flight 77.

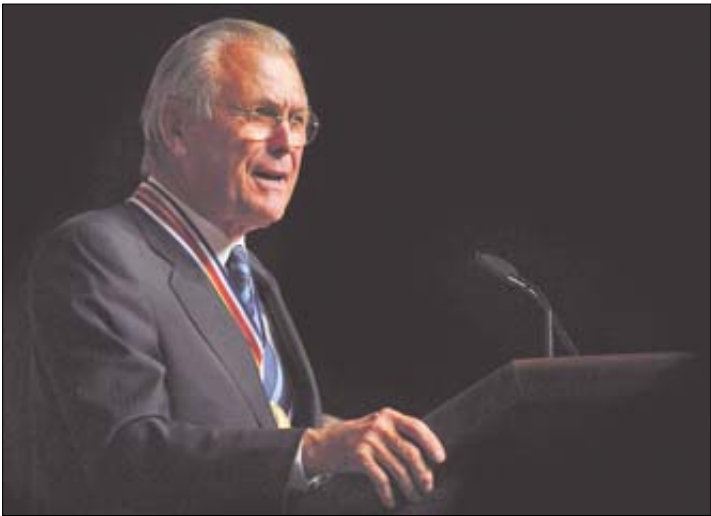
Destruction surrounded us: smoldering rubble, twisted steel, victims in agony.

Last week, President Bush greeted the families of September 11 victims in the East Room of the White House and told them about the efforts to bring to justice those who attacked our nation — and those who supported them. He said, “The families of those murdered that day have waited patiently for justice. ... They should have to wait no longer.” He announced that 14 high-level terrorists, including the man referred to as the mastermind of the attacks, have been transferred to the Department of Defense and incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay. There they will be treated humanely — though their victims were not — and, if and when the necessary legislation is passed by the Congress, prosecuted for their crimes, in accordance with law.

President Bush has reminded us that this enemy is still seeking new ways to attack us. He told us about captured terrorists who provided key information about planned attacks on buildings here in the U.S., and about al Qaeda’s efforts to obtain biological weapons.

Information the interrogators received from these terrorists has led to the capture of other terrorists, who have in turn led us to still more.

Yet, even with these victories in the war, President Bush reminded us that it is important to understand the nature of this enemy, and what it is seeking to do. The extremist movement that threatens us is not a reactionary force — it actively looks for opportunities to acquire new and deadlier



Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld addresses an audience of over 2,000 veterans and guests at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Reno, Nev., Aug. 28.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

weapons, to destabilize governments, and to create discord among our allies and within our own country.

This enemy has made its immediate strategy clear in public announcements and in captured documents: to undermine the Coalition effort in Iraq, drive our forces out, and then use that nation as a base from which to destabilize the surrounding nations. They seek to extend a hoped-for victory in Iraq to a broad part of the Middle East and even parts of Europe and Asia — to restore an ancient caliphate.

Iraq is the linchpin in their effort. Osama bin Laden calls Iraq the “epicenter” of this war, and he believes that “America is prepared to wage easy wars but not prepared to fight long and bitter wars.” When Gen. Abizaid, commander of Central Command, was asked what effect pulling out of Iraq would have, he said the extremists would become “emboldened, empowered, more aggressive.” They will turn whatever part of Iraq they can control into a safe haven for terrorists, just as Afghanistan was before September 11. They likely will attract still more recruits, inspired by their “victory” over the West.

To stop them in Iraq, our country has sent our finest young people — all volunteers — to help the Iraqis defeat the terrorists seeking to control the region.

And while our military tactics, techniques and procedures have adapted as the enemy has changed its tactics, the guiding principle of the overall military strategy remains constant — namely, to empower the Iraqi people to defend, govern and rebuild their own country. Extremists know that war and anarchy are their friends — peace and order their enemies.

There are many challenges ahead in this young century: Among others, Iran’s nuclear aspirations, North Korea and the proliferation of dangerous weapons, and the need to build on recent progress in missile defense.

All this while fighting a war in the media on a global stage. As I recently mentioned in remarks to the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, everyone is watching: the enemies, their supporters, their potential supporters, our allies and our potential allies. In this very public battle for hearts and minds, we must be as confident in the rightness of our cause as the enemy is in its evil purpose. We cannot allow the world to forget that America, though imperfect, is a force for good in the world.

(This article first appeared in the Wall Street Journal on Sept. 11, 2006.)

Social interaction increasingly taking back seat to hi-tech world

Continued From Page 2

So why don’t we do it? Why don’t we have that biological itch that sends us running to the meeting desperate for a cup of bug juice and some eye contact?

Maybe because the computer and the TV and the phone don’t belch or cough or get up when you sit down next to them.

Maybe because we feel like we are plenty connected with thousands of people we communicate with online.

But get real: I don’t have anyone I could ask to jump-start my car, do I?

I haven’t invited one person to go for a walk since I moved here.

No one online notices when my allergies are bothering me or when I have a good hair day.

Maybe that’s why Twenge says that we are a generation starving for affection.

“We live on a junk food diet of instant messages, e-mail, and phone calls rather than the healthy food of live, in-person interaction,” she said.

I think she’s got me there. Yes, I feel full to bursting with connection.

But that kind of connection doesn’t really feed the bones of our lives. I hate to admit it, but we do need our church groups. We do need to see the thousand expressions that dash across the face of the kindergarten teacher.

We need to pat and smooth a girl whose sailor just left her for the first time. We need to be patted and smoothed in our turn. That kind of in person connection nourishes in a way that our online connections never will.

I just hope I still remember how to go out there and do it.

A military wife for 19 years, Jacey Eckhart is a syndicated columnist from CinCHouse.com (www.CinCHouse.com) and author of “The Homefront Club” (Naval Institute Press 2004).

Take in a local football game

Continued From Page 2

soon will update our policy letter. The key changes are as follows:

- Age 11 and under may use large recreational areas (gymnasiums and instructional rooms) with supervision by an authorized adult
- Ages 12-15 may use gymnasiums,

instructional rooms, cardiovascular equipment, weight rooms, and racquetball courts with supervision by an authorized adult

- Ages 16-18 may have open access to physical fitness facilities and equipment (no adult supervision required), except for sauna and Jacuzzi areas
- Adults will ensure children and youth do

not enter sauna, steam rooms, or Jacuzzi areas under any circumstances.

The policy letter will soon be updated with these changes, and I ask everyone to support my staff as we implement the changes.

Football season

College football has started, and the fall local youth and high school sports season is

upon us.

If you are looking for something to do on a Saturday, take in a high school game.

Vilseck has some size this year, and Hohenfels is the defending U’R champ.

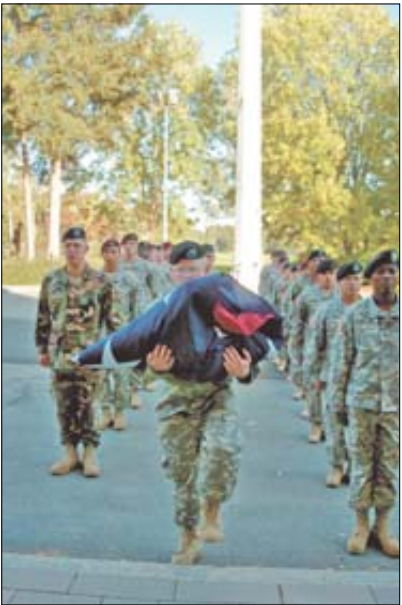
Let’s have a great academic year and, as always, the garrison staff works to make this the best place to live and serve in Europe.

On Sept. 11, 2001, four planes hijacked by terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania killing nearly 3,000 people in a matter of hours. Five years later, America commemorates the worst terror attack in history with thousands of observances throughout the United States. At U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Soldiers, veterans, family, and friends do not forget.

Photos by Paula J. Guzman



Charlie Company, 1st Platoon, 7th Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy, prepare to fold the ceremonial American flag during a retreat ceremony at the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command Headquarters, Grafenwoehr, Germany Sept. 11. The ceremony was held in honor of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S.



(Far left) Staff Sgt. Kevin Edington carries the retired American ceremonial flag into the 7th Army JMTC Headquarters.
(Middle) Retired WWII First Sergeant and commander of VFW Post 10692 Joseph McCarthy, 80, led the crowd in prayer.
(Near left) Members of Charlie Co., 1st Platoon, 7th Army NCO Academy, snap to attention as “To the Colors” is played and the American flag is lowered during retreat.



(Far right) Jasmin Thomas, 9, daughter of Jesse and Melanie Hazelet, observes a solemn moment during retreat.
(Right) U.S. Army Spc. William Groboski and (right) Cpl. Srdan Radovnikovic, of the Croatian army, hold the ends of the flag tight as fellow Soldiers fold it in preparation for the retirement of the colors.



2SCR restationing an Army milestone

Official welcome ceremony marks Dragoons' return to Germany after half a century



The 2SCR official welcome home was met by U.S. and German crowds in the city of Vilseck's town center Friday morning.

Story and photo by JODI WARD
Staff writer

Strykers Soldiers and families were officially welcomed to the Vilseck community and into the U.S. Army Europe fold during a long-awaited ceremony at the Vilseck Army Airfield Friday morning.

It was called a welcome "home" because for nearly half a century (1948-1992), Germany was home to the 2d Cavalry Regiment "Dragoons."

The return of the 2SCR also marks a significant phase of Army transformation as the unit's more modern, lighter, and easily deployed Stryker interim armored vehicles sustain the force.

The ceremony was attended by several German and U.S. Army officials, including the Bavarian-Minister-President, Dr. Edmund Stoiber, USAEUR Commander Gen. David McKiernan and the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, William Timken.

"As the (U.S.) President's direct representative in Germany, it's my pleasure, on his behalf, to welcome the unit here to Germany and the repositioning," said Timken during his

speech.

Maj. Gen. Fred Robinson, Jr. explained why this regiment repositioning is so integral to the Army's strategy.

"This unit is an essential part of the Army's transformation and the transformation of this theater, the cutting edge capabilities for today's modern battle field," said Robinson. "It has the heart of a cavalryman, but the technology and equipment of a truly modernized force."

Also emphasizing the importance of the Strykers' repositioning to Vilseck was McKiernan, who stated that their ability to network across a lighter, more flexible mobile formation makes them a great asset in the fight against new global threats.

"This day marks a key milestone in our efforts—those of United States Army Europe and the U.S. European Command—to transform and to meet the United States military's requirement to globally reposition our forces to respond to the threats of a 21st century security environment," said McKiernan.

"This formation, its equipment, but more importantly its leaders and

troopers, provide the lethal, technologically advanced combat force which can be projected for joint and multi-national operations rapidly whenever and wherever these capabilities are needed," he said.

During the ceremony, the regiment's colors were symbolically uncased by Maj. Gen. Fred Robinson Jr., Col. John RisCassi, and Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez.

"The unfurling of the guidon marks the arrival of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment back to Germany," said 2SCR spokesman Maj. Scott Pendell, "and now that we are here, we are able to begin training."

Given that nearly 65 percent of 2SCR Soldiers are new to the regiment, it will take some time to train and build a cohesive unit, said McKiernan.

"Once the regiment is trained and operationally capable, once that occurs they are certainly available for deployments in side the U.S. European Command area of responsibility or anywhere worldwide, to include commitments to NATO and elsewhere," said McKiernan.

Netzaberg Housing area a win-win for all

Continued From Page 1

Stoiber (Minister President of the Free State of Bavaria), who spoke about the project's importance during the hour-long ceremony.

Stoiber said he was especially proud that despite the political and financial obstacles that had to be overcome, Netzaberg—the biggest build-to-lease project in Germany—was finally reaching fruition.

He said when the state was initially approached about helping to fund an additional 10-year lease guarantee for the housing area, the first obstacle to overcome was the restriction that "state funds could not be spent on military projects."

Stoiber said it became a very complicated issue between state and federal government amid long bureaucratic and political battles. Ultimately, he said, "this project was so important for us that we were able to put aside our differences," and get it approved.

"It was a lot of controversy," said Stoiber, "but we all supported one another in the end."

The state and federal governments made an 83 million Euro each lease guarantee, notching the 10-year build-to-lease project up to a 20-year build-to-lease.

Stoiber thanked the federal representatives,

Schmidt and Diller, who helped make the project and the financial backing possible. He also said he was pleased that about 85 percent (275 million Euro) of the contracts for the Netzaberg construction was awarded to Bavarian firms, calling it "a stroke of luck" for the state's construction industry.

IMA-Europe Director Russell Hall focused his remarks on the history of Netzaberg and the revival of a village that dates back to Celtic times.

He also expressed his appreciation to the United States Congress, and the military leadership at the Pentagon and USAREUR for their guidance and support concerning this immense project.

Also in attendance was U.S. Army Europe Commander Gen. David McKiernan, who helped unveil the sign describing Netzaberg's history.

The first section of more than 400 Netzaberg homes will be turned over to German and U.S. authorities in the fall of 2007. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

The housing area will consist of 830 housing units, an elementary and middle school, community center, convenience store, and a day care and youth center.



Photo by Sue Bluhm

Minister President of the Free State of Bavaria Dr. Edmund Stoiber said he was pleased that local firms received 85 percent of the Netzaberg construction contracts.

Healthy Living class available

Continued From Page 1

Whether they are there to lose pounds or learn to read food labels, Willis said dedicated participants can expect to reach the individual goals they set at the onset of the classe. These goals will be monitored, he said, and reevaluated halfway through the six-week course.

Through classroom instruction and hands-on application, participants will also learn about weight loss traps and dangers that they should avoid.

With PT tests to pass and weight and body fat standards to meet, service members can be especially prone to unhealthy weight loss methods.

According to a study by Col. Gaston Bathalon of the Army Research Institute, more than 1,400 troops referred to Fort Bragg Hospital for weight loss reported skipping meals and 31 percent reported fasting.

Other methods included the use of appetite suppressants, laxatives, and rubber sauna suits, all of which can be unhealthy or even deadly.

"A major concern is that some of the weight loss behaviors we identified in the study could negatively impact health as well as performance," said Bathalon in a 2005

interview with the New York Times.

Willis knows how common unhealthy weight loss techniques are. While in a gym locker room earlier this month, he said he came across a man wearing a garbage bag under his shirt to lose weight.

"What this course does is give them the knowledge-base to live healthier lives, everything from understanding how their body process different foods to managing weight with sensible nutrition," said Willis.

The course costs \$95 and will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m. on alternate days at Grafenwoehr and Vilseck.

"If you think about the time wasted on different diets, and money wasted on different diets and supplements sitting in your kitchen closets and cabinets. That money all together is much more than \$95," he said.

Willis said in addition to the information and classroom exercises, participants will build an effective support network, learning from one another. The class, which will have a minimum of 15 people and a maximum of 40 participants, is open to the public.

Anyone interested can register at the Vilseck or Grafenwoehr fitness centers. The first class begins Oct. 3

Don't beat yourself up, lose weight with sense

Continued From Page 1

I am only convinced of one thing—diets don't work. And diets don't work because people's attitudes towards food and weight must change. Proper nutrition requires an attitude adjustment—which is much easier said than done.

We must understand why we eat. We eat for social, religious and cultural reasons. We eat for taste, comfort and occasionally nutrition. We eat to alter our mood or alleviate boredom, two of the most harmful reasons. Some people use food the way others use alcohol, drugs or tobacco.

When we use food to change our emotions, it leads to a cycle of guilt, deprivation and bingeing. This is a difficult cycle to break once it gets started. Eating disorders and disordered eating often run in families because children model their eating habits after their parents. With modern culture's increased emphasis on beauty being thin, is it any wonder that 8- and 9-year-old children are already dieting?

We can break this cycle if we begin to eat as small children do. Most small children eat only when they are hungry, and they stop when

they are full. They have not yet learned to eat for all the other reasons that adults do. When was the last time you could force a child to eat when he or she wasn't hungry?

When we get away from labeling foods as good foods and bad foods, and we allow all foods to be good foods, the desire of eating the forbidden fruit is suddenly gone. Many people have a difficult time with this concept at first. They will be initially gluttonous, gorging themselves with junk foods or foods they previously avoided. After working through the overeating stage, they will come back to the center of the continuum, eating in moderation, we hope, and hungering for fruits and vegetables.

I believe this is the mindset we must find. Once people have that, then they can work their way back to balance and moderation.

We can only successfully lose weight if we give up the dieting cycle. I know this must sound funny coming from a dietitian. But we have to quit beating ourselves up. We need to feed our bodies with nutritious foods, and nurture our bodies with proper exercise and rest. You can't do that if you're tied to the whipping post.

Legionnaire's rare disease

Continued From Page 1

those buildings, they are not a source of the illness.

Caffrey noted that after the 1976 outbreak of Legionnaire's disease in Philadelphia, changes in government regulations, building codes, and air conditioning design helped to eliminate or significantly reduce the chance of anyone contracting the disease.

Grafenwoehr health officials say that Legionnaire's disease is an **uncommon, bacterial infection that cannot be spread from person to person or from animals to persons.** "In fact," said Caffrey, "most healthy people who are exposed to the bacteria do not get sick."

Most cases can be treated successfully with antibiotics, and previously healthy people usually recover.

Those who are most at risk of getting sick are older people (usually 65 years of age or older), smokers, those with chronic lung disease (like emphysema), or those with weakened immune systems.

For more information about Legionnaire's disease, visit the Centers for Disease Control Web site at www.cdc.gov or talk with your health care provider.

Good Morning America welcomes troops

Soldiers recognized, return to concert performances by Prince, Beyonce

Army News Service

After more than a year in Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Peter Moran was ready to get back to his family and friends. Little did he know his return festivities would include Christina Aguilera and the Good Morning America crew.

Moran was one of 80 Soldiers who were recognized and welcomed home during Good Morning America's summer concert series June through August.

The connection

The concerts were coordinated through Operation Tribute to Freedom, an Army community relations program designed to connect Soldiers coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan with the American public.

"The concert series has been an extraordinary opportunity to recognize and thank our returning Soldiers," said Col. Garrie Dornan, director of Army Public Affairs's Community Relations Division. "The producers for Good Morning America have truly committed to making this a special opportunity for our troops and their families."

Star performances

Soldiers who served in operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom were hosted as honored guests and treated to performances by artists including Prince, Christina Aguilera and Carrie Underwood.

"We had a great time," said Moran, of the Army Reserve's 80th Division (Institutional Training). "Not only was it terrific to go to with my daughter, but it was also great to be appreciated for the time and sacrifice that Soldiers make serving in Iraq and other countries."

Moran attended the Aug. 18 show featuring pop singer Christina Aguilera two weeks after

returning home.

Back to your real life

"I can only hope opportunities like the Good Morning America show will be offered to other returning Soldiers. Events like this one help with the adjustment back to your real life," said Moran.

Capt. Joan Davis and Soldiers with the 344th Combat Support Hospital of Fort Totten in Queens, New York, attended the June 30 concert featuring the Pussycat Dolls.

Lead singer Nicole Scherzinger personally dedicated the group's song "Stickwitu" to the unit and to all those still serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We truly had a pleasant day at the concert. The Pussycat Dolls acknowledged us every time they came out on stage," said Davis. "It was quite touching. I also think it helped to be recognized after being gone for so long."

Don't forget to remember

A group of 18 Soldiers from the 80th Div. caravanned from Richmond, Va., to the Aug. 11 show, where country singer and USO supporter Carrie Underwood thanked the Soldiers before singing her hit "Don't Forget to Remember Me" as a tribute.

Good Morning America has extended the invitation to honor Soldiers at some of their upcoming fall concert events.

Last Friday, the show hosted 10 Soldiers during a special performance by R&B artist Beyoncé.

"We were thrilled to have the Operation Tribute to Freedom members in Bryant Park, joining us for this year's summer concert series. We hope to see them again next year," said Bridgette Maney, a Good Morning America spokeswoman.

Welcome back to school

OTF continues to identify unique



Courtesy photo

Eighty Soldiers were welcomed home from Iraq and Afghanistan through Good Morning America's summer concert series June through August. The effort was part of Operation Tribute to Freedom, an Army Public Affairs' Community Relations Division program designed to recognize Soldiers.

opportunities to welcome Soldiers home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The program is currently conducting 40 "Welcome Back to School" recognition events at college and university football games across the country.

Soldiers who have served in operations

Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom or Noble Eagle are eligible to participate in OTF's speaking and recognition programs.

Interested Soldiers can contact the program at tributetofreedom@hqda.army.mil.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.army.mil/otf.

Deadly disease inspires military family to help others

Story and photo by
ELAINE WILSON

Special to American Forces Press Service

A disease has robbed 23-year-old Jenni Craig of her hair, her health and, possibly, her future. But the one thing Jenni and her husband, Army Spc. William Craig, refuse to let go of is hope.

Jenni is battling Gardner's Syndrome, a rare genetic disease in which the colon, stomach and upper intestine become riddled with polyps. The polyps, or tumors, eventually lead to cancer.

There is no known cure for this disease; doctors can only treat the various ailments that arise from the

syndrome. But whether she has 50 days or 50 years, Jenni is determined to find a cure, not just for herself, but for everyone else touched by the disease.

"All I know is we're going to face this disease head on and not let it beat us," she wrote in her online journal.

To help make that happen, Jenni, her husband and a few close family members and friends established the Jenni Renee Foundation this year, a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure, providing funds for health care to those who can't afford it, and educating others, including doctors, about the relatively unknown disease.

Jenni's concern may seem surprising under the circumstances, but caring for others is a way of life

for the young mother.

The Missouri native met her husband when she was only 16 years old. They married a year later and soon had two sons, Elijah and Jacob. William joined the Army in 2002, and the growing family moved to Fort Polk, La., in 2003. William left for Iraq, and a few days later, Isaac was born.

Alone and busy caring for three boys, the timing couldn't have been worse to have health issues, but "that was when I started having problems," Jenni said.

Jenni felt a large lump in her stomach, later diagnosed as a desmoid tumor, a slow-growing, cancerous group of tumors. She was sent to Brooke Army Medical Center here, where a colonoscopy revealed hundreds of polyps in her colon, stomach and small intestines.

"The doctors told me it was Gardner's Syndrome," Jenni said. "I had never heard of it."

"A patient with Gardner's Syndrome is someone who has familial adenomatous polyposis (an inherited colorectal cancer syndrome) and other extra-intestinal findings," said Dr. Christopher Jones, assistant chief of oncology at BAMC and Jenni's doctor. "FAP alone accounts for 1 percent of all colon cancers."

Extra-intestinal findings include osteomas (bony growths), cysts, desmoid tumors and thyroid disease.

"I've had them all," Jenni said. "My doctors tell me I have the full-blown case of Gardner's Syndrome."

Jenni went in for surgery, and doctors removed the desmoid tumor and her colon in April 2004; her colon was removed as a preventive measure. Jenni opted to have doctors monitor the polyps found in her rectum with scopes every three months rather than remove her rectum. The polyps in her rectum have a 100 percent chance of turning to cancer.

Despite a frightening diagnosis, Jenni was fine for about a year. Then, one night she had a gut

feeling.

"I knew the tumor was back," she said. "I never imagined I'd have to face my worst fears." There was a desmoid tumor growing in the same spot in her abdomen as the last one. She traveled to BAMC again for surgery in March 2005.

"I woke up from the surgery and instantly knew something wasn't right. I could tell," Jenni said.

Jenni had about 10 tumors spreading throughout her kidney, intestines, the main blood vessel to her small intestines and her duodenum, a hollow tube largely responsible for the breakdown of food in the small intestine.

"The doctors said she would bleed to death if they removed the tumors," William said.

It was a no-win scenario — remove them and die, or don't remove them and die. The cancerous tumors would eventually grow too large and interfere with her organs, or the cancer would kill her. The doctors gave Jenni two to 12 months to live.

The doctors planned a course of chemotherapy to shrink the tumors. But, two rounds of chemotherapy and months of nausea and exhaustion later, the treatment was proving worse than the disease — the chemotherapy was ineffective.

Jenni again went in for surgery in April to try for the removal of the desmoid tumor. "I came out of surgery with more bad news," she said.

The 10 tumors had intertwined into one large tumor. "It's attached to vital organs," Jones said. "It's in too many spots for us to cut it out." "They couldn't get in at all," Jenni said. "They just removed a small part of the tumor."

In the midst of Jenni's health battle, the Craigs decided to test their sons for the genetic disease. As an "autosomal dominant syndrome," there was a 50 percent chance her children had inherited the disease.

"We got the results in May, and all three of our boys have Gardner's Syndrome," William said.

"It's like flipping the coin three times and coming up with tails every time," Jones said.

Jenni's sons, now 3, 4 and 6, will have to undergo colonoscopies starting at age 11, and, if polyps are found, have their colons removed to prevent an inevitable cancer.

Disheartening news, but the Craigs remain hopeful that the boys won't have the full-blown syndrome like Jenni. At the moment, Jenni is undergoing another round of chemotherapy, an effort to shrink a desmoid tumor too large and too dangerous to remove. "If this doesn't work, we'll try another round of chemotherapy."

Jenni has endured rounds of chemotherapy, surgeries and even a prediction of death, but she and her husband are

still unwilling to accept defeat, for Jenni, their sons or for other syndrome sufferers worldwide.

"We want to do everything in our power to make sure this doesn't happen to our boys or other families," she said.

"My wife and I are so lucky. We're in the military and have all our medical expenses taken care of, but other people can't afford care," said William, who recycles cans to keep the Jenni Renee Foundation running. "We want to make sure everyone can receive the medical care they need."

"This is a deadly disease, and we need to find hope for people who do have it," Jenni said.

“ We want to do everything in our power to make sure this doesn't happen to our boys or other families. ”

Jenni Craig

Diagnosed with Gardner's Syndrome



Jenni Craig and her husband, Spc. William Craig, check for updates on the Jenni Renee Foundation Web site. Despite Jenni's own health struggles, the couple started the foundation to educate people about the disease and to raise money for sufferers unable to afford health care.

What’s Happening

Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

Christian home educators support group meets in Graf

Grafenwoehr Garrison Christian Home Educators Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Grafenwoehr Post Library between 6 and 8 p.m.

Come and receive support, share resources, knowledge, and your wisdom. For more information, contact Dawn Sovinsky at CIV 09608-923-733 or terry.dawn@asamnet.de

Food booths still available for Crown Jewel Bazaar

The Vilseck and Grafenwoehr Community and Spouses’ Clubs have 10 food booths for hire during the three days of the annual Crown Jewel Bazaar, taking place Oct. 27-29 this year.

A food booth at the Crown Jewel Bazaar is a fantastic opportunity for an organization to raise funds and support the community. Oct. 1 is the deadline to submit applications.

We still have 4 indoor booths, 4 outside booths that can support open flames, and 2 non-electric booths - available for Family Readiness Groups and non-military community organizations to purchase a time slot in one of the booths.

Slots are \$20 - \$25 dollars per time slot, and all profits will go to the organization that purchased the time slot.

Interested groups should contact the food chairperson as soon as possible as slots will be allotted on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year’s bazaar is expected to be the largest event of its type in recent history and will include a wide range of products offered by over 80 vendors.

Please process forms through Karen Denny, food booth head chair, by calling CIV 09662-421-692.

Mandatory SAEDA Briefing for all DoD Personnel

The Grafenwoehr and Vilseck communities will be conducting the fourth Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the Army class for FY 2006.

This class is a mandatory annual requirement for all DoD personnel including military, AF/NAF (both US and LN). Classes are as follows:

VILSECK 9 – 10:30 a.m. for U.S. personnel / 10:30 a.m. - noon for LN personnel, Location: Rose Barracks Post Theater, Sept. 27

GRAFENWOEHR 1 – 2:30 p.m. for US personnel / 2:30 – 4 p.m. for LN personnel, Location: Camp Aachen Theater, Bldg. 2060, Sept. 27

New Saturday Thrift Shop hours at Grafenwoehr

The Grafenwoehr Thrift Shop is now open on Saturdays!

Beginning Sept. 9, the shop will be open on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with consignments taken from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Check us out for all your household and clothing needs! For more information, call 475-6181.

Grafenwoehr one-mile Friendship Walk Sept. 30

In preparation for Individuals with Disabilities Awareness Month (October), a one-mile Friendship Walk to promote special needs awareness will take place Sept. 30.

The event will feature information booths (EDIS, EFMP, CYS, DoDDS, EEO). Everyone is invited for food, fun, and friendship.

Participants will gather at the Grafenwoehr parade ground in front of Bldg. 621. The one-mile walk will take place 9:30-10 a.m.

For more information, call Karen Vojtecky at DSN 476-3221.

EUCOM urges travelers to monitor advisories on Web

U.S. European Command is urging U.S. military travelers with planned travel through the United Kingdom to monitor the U.K.’s Department of Transport Web site, www.dft.gov.uk, for travel advisories and restrictions. Travelers can expect delays in

commercial travel through other European cities as well.

All U.S. military personnel in Europe are reminded to be watchful of suspicious activity and to monitor the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State Web sites for threat warnings and other advisories.

Motorcycle club meetings set

The garrison motorcycle group meets at the Thai restaurant in Grafenwoehr: Tomorrow Oct. 5 and 19 Nov. 2, 16, and 30 Dec. 14 and 28

Welcome to Bavaria three-day orientation schedule

Discover Bavaria’s culture, language and traditions during Welcome to Bavaria, held at Vilseck’s Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 2236.

Next class: Tuesday through Sept. 28 For more info, call DSN 476-2650.

Vilseck barber shop hours expanding as part of test

The barber shop located at Vilseck’s Langenbruck Center will change its hours of operation for a 30-day test period through Oct. 1. The test schedule is as follows:

Mon. – Fri.	7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Traffic circle becomes one-way beginning today

Construction of the traffic circle is scheduled for today through Dec. 20.

All traffic exiting the intersection will be northbound. No southbound traffic is possible at the intersection.

Access from north to Bldg. 600 (Recreation Center) and Bldg. 602 will remain open throughout construction.

Access to the vehicle inspection will be from Saratoga Avenue. The entrance to the camp area is through Gate 6.

Place your free ad in the Bavarian News online

All valid ID cardholders can place free ads in the Bavarian News.

Fill out the form at <http://www.rlehner.de/trainingtimes/freeclass.htm>.

Here’s how to contact your school or school bus office

To contact the schools for information call VES at 476-2812; VHS at 476-2554; GES and GMS at 475-7133; School Bus Office at 476-3087; and Steve Vojtecky, USAG G school liaison officer, at steve.vojtecky@us.army.mil.

Combined Federal Campaign kicks off Oct. 2

The Combined Federal Campaign was founded in 1964 to help raise funds for people who are less fortunate.

Many charitable organizations depend on the donations of thoughtful people to successfully help the disadvantaged.

The 2006 CFC Campaign kicks off Oct. 2. Contact Christine Nunez at DSN 475-8432 or christine.nunez@us.army.mil for more information or individual training.

Retiree Health Day set Sept. 30 at Vilseck Clinic

Retiree Health Day will be held 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Vilseck Clinic.

Cub Scout Pack 261 signing up new members. Join now!

Designed for boys in first through fifth grades, Cub Scouting combines outdoor activities, sports, academics and more in a program that helps teach ideals such as honesty, good citizenship and respect.

Grafenwoehr Pack 261 is registering new members. Call CIV 09641-83-5308 for more information.

Women of parish invited for Wednesday morning meetings

CWOC invites all women of the parish to join them for meetings every Wednesday morning 11:30a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

We will pray, share and study together. Watch care will be provided at the morning events. Every Wednesday

night we meet at 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in Bldg. 555, Grafenwoehr.

Call DSN 476-3696 for more information.

Let TRICARE reps answer your questions Sept. 26-29

Come and check us out! TRICARE representatives from Vilseck and Grafenwoehr will have a TRICARE booth at the Vilseck PX from Sept. 26 – 29, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., to answer questions about your military health benefits.

If you are new to Europe or have recently had a change in your family, such as a move or new baby, know the steps to take to ensure your health benefit information is up to date and working for you.

You will have access to information on TRICARE benefits and your respective clinics.

For more information, call your local TRICARE Service Center at Grafenwoehr CIV 09641-83-8589 (DSN 475-8589) or Vilseck CIV 09662-83-2026 (DSN 476-2026).

PAO phones temporarily out of service due to move

Phone service for the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office will be down today and tomorrow due to PAO’s relocation to Bldg. 539.

ACS hosting Oct. 4 job fair

Don’t miss the job fair Oct. 4 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Bldg. 355 (Vilseck’s Digital Training Facility).

Vilseck Thrift Shop has new store hours

The Vilseck Thrift Shop is now open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. On the first and third Wednesdays, they are open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. On Thursdays, they are open from 1 - 5 p.m.

Volunteers are always needed, and free child care is available.

If you are PCSing or have just arrived, consider dropping off your consignments or donations!

Call DSN 476-2649 or CIV 09662-83-2649 for more information.

Pre-reintegration fair slated Friday at Grafenwoehr

A pre-reintegration fair will be held at the Grafenwoehr Field House from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Friday.

Some of the folks who will be there to help you:

**Army Community Service
Health Clinic
Legal & Bank
AAFES & MWR
Social Work Services
DOD Schools
Credit Union
ITT & Outdoor Recreation**
Plus, join us for our Reunion

Expectations Workshop 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For more information, call ACS at DSN 476-2650.

Middle school open house set tomorrow 6-8 p.m.

School open houses are a great time to meet with teachers and visit classrooms.

The Grafenwoehr Middle School will hold their open house tomorrow from 6-8 p.m.

Call 475-9500 for details.

MCCW invites you to join them for a Journey of Faith

The purpose of the Sept. 30 event is to train new leadership, refresh seasoned leadership, and encourage women to become active in their Catholic community through its MCCW program.

The Journey of Faith will take place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Vilseck Fellowship Hall.

Lunch and child care will be provided.

Call DSN 476-3696 for more information.

Hohenfels Briefs

UofP seeking to hire enrollment counselor

The University of Phoenix is now accepting resumes for a part time enrollment counselor in Hohenfels.

Enrollment counselors are responsible for advising the students on an appropriate degree program, working through the enrollment process with the students, and marketing the programs that UOP offers.

The application deadline is Friday. Contact Rachel Burling at DSN 466-3090 or rachel.burling@phoenix.edu for more information.

Warrior Way speed limit reduced during set hours

Effective immediately, the speed limit on Warrior Way will be permanently reduced from 50 kph to 30 kph between the hours of 6 and 8 a.m.

Monday – Wednesday and on Fridays to make running PT less hazardous.

Speed limit signs will change to 30 kph at 6 a.m. and back to 50 at 8 a.m.

Late Bus program cancelled through Sept. 29

The experiment with the “last Friday of the month” late shuttle bus to all off post housing areas from the PX/Theater was unsuccessful due to a lack of riders.

The service has been cancelled and will open again Sept. 29.

If we fail to get any community support after Sept. 29, the program will

be permanently cancelled.

Boost Soldiers’ GT scores by attending prep sessions

If you have any Soldiers who need to increase their GT score and/or would benefit from basic math and/or English instruction, give them an opportunity through GT Prep.

The next GT Prep Session starts Monday. The session lasts through Oct. 6, from 8 a.m. to noon daily.

For more information, call DSN 466-2882.

Unit level flag football registration ends today

USAG Hohenfels MWR sports has extended registration for the Intramural Flag Football program through today. Units can register at any MWR Sports facility. Registration sheets are posted in both facilities.

Eis Cafe changes store hours

Due to poor sales, the recently opened Eis Cafe in the main PX complex is reducing its hours to 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; closed Sunday through Monday.

Soccer players, ages 13-15, needed for CYS junior team

PCS moves and an injury have depleted the ranks of our CYS Junior Soccer Team.

Accordingly, the garrison has reopened signups for 13 to 15-year-old soccer players.

Junior Soccer in Hohenfels is a great deal because you play a full 10-game German schedule in addition to the regular American schedule.

To join, call DSN 466-2078 or visit CLEOS in Bldg. 96.

We will even take players interested in transferring from tackle football.

Singles pancake breakfast slated at Hilltop Sunday

Come join us for a complimentary home-cooked pancake breakfast at the Hilltop, Bldg. 6 on Sunday from 9 - 11 a.m.

Enjoy freshly cooked pancakes with all the trimmings, scrambled eggs, toast, bacon and sausage.

Legal center change of hours

The Hohenfels Legal Center will be closed until 1 p.m. for all services tomorrow.

Library open Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., to test usage

The Hohenfels Library will be open for two Sundays during the month of September to run a test on library usage for those days.

The hours will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Sunday.

For information, call Roger Krause at DSN 466-1740.

Grafenwoehr Crown Jewel Bazaar

Be treated like Royalty and save a Fortune!

October 27 -29, 2006

USAG Grafenwoehr

Bazaar Location JMTc Camp Aachen

Ribbon Cutting Friday, 27 Oct., 11:00

Opening Hours Friday, 27 Oct., 11 -19:00
Saturday, 28 Oct., 10 -19:00
Sunday, 29 Oct., 11 -17:00



Featuring dozens of Europe’s finest vendors!

English Fine China, Rugs, Wines & Cheese, Antique and custom-made Furniture, Paintings, Bavarian Clothing, Italian Porcelain, Gold and Silver Jewelry, Polish Pottery, Tapestries, Fine Table Linen, and much more!



Sponsored by the Vilseck & Grafenwoehr Community and Spouses’ Clubs

Bazaar is open to all Military I.D. Card Holders. Visa, Mastercard, Cash & Checks accepted. Stroller Park available.

Did you know ???

Erntedankfest an Old Word Thanksgiving

by MARTINA BIAS

Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

The annual Thanksgiving holiday is not an exclusive American observance. The German version, called Erntedankfest (literally - Harvest Thanks Festival), is not as renowned as the U.S. celebration, and it is likely that you will never hear mention of it during your stay in Europe. Harvest celebrations were held throughout the Old World long before the pilgrims in the U.S. colonies joined their Native American counterparts for food-centered festivities. Thanksgiving in Europe has a long tradition, but one that is different in many ways from that in the States.

Firstly, Erntedankfest in German-speaking countries is often celebrated on the first Sunday in October, which is usually also the first Sunday following Michaelistag (St. Michael's Day) or Michaelmas (Sept. 29). Various regions, however, may give thanks at different times during September and October.

The origin

The mostly (but not limited to) Protestant German Erntedankfest observance dates back to around 1770. Since the Reformation, the Michaelistag has been considered the end of the harvest season. This actually puts the date closer to Canada's Thanksgiving in early October. In Germany, Erntedankfest is not a national holiday, but more of a religious celebration with roots in the rural harvest festivals of old. Celebrations in larger cities usually center around a church service and do not resemble the big traditional family holiday it has become in the United States. While German-speaking countries observe the principle of separation of church and state "politically", public displays of religious holiday traditions are a part of the local culture, and are as accepted as they are expected and enjoyed by the whole community.



Courtesy art

Harvest celebrations were held throughout the Old World long before the pilgrims in the U.S. colonies joined their Native American counterparts for food-centered festivities.

Unofficial observance

Although it is celebrated locally and regionally all over Europe, no German-speaking countries observe an official national Thanksgiving holiday on a particular day, as in Canada or in the United States. Through the centuries, villages throughout Germany have marked the end of the period of backbreaking work with great festivals. The traditions vary from region to region and by name, depending on the time and type of harvest. In the wine growing areas, the "Winzer Fest" is celebrated with cider, new and old wine, food, and dancing, when the last grapes have been picked. In the Alpine regions, grain is brought into barns on big wagons, pulled by decorated oxen. On top of the wagons may be sheaves of grain, bound in the form of a figure, animal,

or human. The last sheaves are left on the fields so that the next harvest may be plentiful and for animals to glean. **Old with the new** In some places these traditions still survive even though modern machinery has hastened the process of bringing in the crops. A harvest is always reason to celebrate. Similar to the U.S. celebration, Erntedankfest is centered around giving thanks to God for His blessings and provisions. Beautiful displays, typically of colorful fruit and vegetables, as well as grains and breads, are set up before church altars as symbols of gratitude to God. Afterwards the produce is often donated to the needy. **Day-long celebration** A typical Erntedankfest celebration can

be an all-day affair, beginning with a worship service around 10 a.m., followed by an afternoon procession that concludes with the presenting of the traditional "harvest crown" (Erntekrone). After these official activities, the party starts with music, dancing, and food inside and outside the church. Children can enjoy making crafts, such as decorative Strohuppen (straw dolls) and Erntedankkronen (harvest gratitude crowns). The celebration often ends with an evening service that is followed by a lantern and torch parade (Laternenumzug) for children and sometimes fireworks. Despite the distinct differences, American culture has influenced some aspects of Old World Thanksgiving celebrations in Europe. Over the past few decades, Truthahn (turkey) has become a popular dish, widely available in German-speaking countries. Turkey is valued for its tender, juicy meat, slowly usurping the more traditional goose (Gans) on special occasions. Turkey in Germany is prepared much like a goose, but in the end, the Germanic Erntedankfest is still not the big family holiday and feast that it is in America. Around Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels, the celebrations are mostly limited to harvest-themed decorated churches. **Local events** The following locations invite visitors to admire their displays the afternoon of Oct 1: The Lutheran church just outside Gate 1 in **Grafenwoehr** Downtown **Vilseck's** Catholic church St. Aguidius **Hohenfels'** Catholic church St. Ulrich I encourage you to get out and experience the local culture and see what German Thanksgiving is all about. *Have you ever wondered why Germans do certain things? I welcome your questions and comments. E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I may be able to address your suggestions in a future column.*

Baked cauliflower a delicious anytime vegetable

Recipe and photo by MARTINA BIAS
Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist

Since we are approaching the season of Erntedank (harvest thanks), I will share a family vegetable recipe that will complement any delicious meal. Cauliflower is a popular German vegetable. The local harvest times (outdoors) range from spring until late fall. Germans appreciate the fact that cauliflower is easy to digest, mild in taste, and full of vitamin C and minerals. Cauliflower is usually boiled in salt water, and the addition of lemon juice or milk to the cooking water will help the vegetable to stay beautifully white in color. The classic way to serve cauliflower in Germany is with melted butter or hollandaise sauce, or topped with bread crumbs roasted in butter or au gratin (with cheese). The following recipe has been handed down from my grandmother. My mother has prepared since I was a child, and it is my favorite way to serve this delicious vegetable. To suit my own family's taste, I have added some shredded Swiss cheese. My mother served it as a side dish with Bratwurst or fried pork patties and paired it with boiled potatoes. Guten Appetit!

Gebackener Blumenkohl
1 large head of cauliflower
2 Tbs. butter or margarine
1 cup milk
5 eggs
1/8 tsp. nutmeg
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
3 Tbs. unseasoned bread crumbs
2 cups shredded Swiss cheese
fresh parsley, chives, optional

Separate cauliflower into florets and boil in salted water for about five minutes, or until tender-crisp. Drain well. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Generously grease an oval baking dish with 2 Tbs. butter or margarine. Place drained cauliflower in baking dish. Whisk milk, eggs, nutmeg, salt, pepper, bread crumbs, and 1 cup of shredded cheese. Pour over cauliflower. Bake at 400 degrees for 40 minutes or until top begins to brown and a knife inserted into the center comes out clean. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and bake an additional 10 minutes. Sprinkle with chopped parsley or chives, as desired. Yield: 10- 12 servings
Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? E-mail me at martina.bias@us.army.mil.



Cauliflower is a popular German vegetable. Enjoyed for its mild taste and healthy attributes, it can be served baked or boiled.

Try something different ! If you like to cook and would like an authentic German recipe, e-mail the Bavarian News Food & Culture columnist for a recipe. Wondering how to recreate a delicious dish you ate in a village Gasthof or neighborhood cafe? Let us know. We'd like to feature the recipe in a future issue. Just e-mail us at martina.bias@us.army.mil. Guten Appetit!

Area teams kick off rugby season

Story and photo by **SETH ROBSON**
Special to the Bavarian News

Rugby season kicked off earlier this month for U.S. service members and Department of Defense civilians in Europe with the start of play in German club leagues.

U.S. military teams from Illesheim, Ramstein, Schweinfurt, and Vilseck, Germany, as well as Naples, Italy, and Mons, Belgium, will take to the field this fall, according to U.S. Forces Europe captain Gerald Broom, 33.

In addition, many troops turn out for local teams, said Broom, a Quitman, Texas, native, who plays for the Kaiserslautern Rugby Club, a mostly German team.

On Sept. 9 Illesheim and Vilseck took on German teams in the opening of their Bavarian league 12-game schedule, while Ramstein kicked off its first game last week in the Rheinland-Pfalz league.

The newest U.S. military team in Europe is Vilseck, which played its first game, a preseason clash with nearby Regensburg, last month. Vilseck captain Dan Frazier said the team won that game, 75-10, and went on to defeat Illesheim the next week in another preseason friendly 12-7.

Frazier, a Grafenwoehr-based physical fitness specialist, said he started the team after playing several seasons for a German club — Nuremberg TSV 1846 — the team that Vilseck faces in its first regular-season match Saturday.

Most of the Vilseck players are soldiers who recently arrived in Germany with the 2nd Cavalry (Stryker) Regiment.

“I know that Fort Lewis, Wash., (former home of the Vilseck-based 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment) has a strong rugby program, and there were rugby clubs at Vilseck and Grafenwoehr in the past,” Frazier said. “We have enough veteran players to coach and bring along the younger players who are enthusiastic about the sport and want to try something new.”

One of the Vilseck players, Bradly Wagner,



Anthony Dawn, left, and his Vilseck teammates lock into position and prepare for a scrum against Regensburg in a preseason match last month. Vilseck is the newest U.S. military rugby team in Europe.

28, of Westminster, Mass., took up rugby this year after previously playing football and wrestling. The Grafenwoehr-based range controller said he was looking forward to playing alongside the 2SCR Soldiers.

“They have boosted our numbers and a lot of guys with experience have come over,” said Wagner, who played at prop in the preseason games.

U.S. rugby players in Europe have the opportunity to qualify for the U.S. Forces Europe team, which played in the U.S. Military National tournament in the States in May, and can apply

for all-services rugby teams as well as playing in the local leads.

The Vilseck team would welcome any new players, Frazier said, adding that American football skills translate well to the rugby field.

“It takes a little getting used to the rule switch, but once you make the adjustment it is pretty similar,” said Frazier, who also plays football for a German team — the Franken Timber Wolves.

Anyone interested in playing rugby in Europe should contact Frazier at daniel.fraizer@us.army.mil.

Video Gaming

America’s Army game to add real heroes

OIF/OEF Soldiers become game characters, action figures

Army News Service

America’s Army online video game launched its newest version, “America’s Army: Special Forces (Overmatch),” Sept. 14.

The new addition features “America’s Army: Real Heroes,” a program that honors Soldiers who’ve shown heroism in the war on terror. So far, “Real Heroes” are modeled after eight Soldiers who’ve received an award for valor for actions in operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to being virtual in-game characters, the heroes are being modeled for action figures that will be sold in retail stores.

Chris Chambers, deputy director of the Army Game project, said the new characters were created to inspire Americans and highlight the values, teamwork and courage that are the fabric of today’s Army.

“There are thousands of enlisted Soldiers who have been awarded medals for bravery and valor in combat, but their stories are largely unknown to the American public,” said Chambers.

In the past century, most Americans were well aware of, and looked up to, Soldiers like Sergeants Audie Murphy and Alvin York, he added. “There is a great need for the public to learn the stories behind our current generation of Soldiers.”

America’s Army shows more than 7.5 million registered users what it’s like to be a Soldier. Players assume virtual roles as special forces, infantry or medical Soldiers, explore individual and collective training, and eventually

participate in simulated war on terror missions. In the game’s latest version, players will be

able to meet and interact with the Real Heroes, and hear their stories told through a video and in the real Soldier’s own words on the Web at www.americasarmy.com.

The first four Soldiers to become Real Heroes are Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Wolford, Maj. Jason Amerine, Sgt. Tommy Rieman and Sgt. Matthew W. Zedwick. Action figures and in-game characters will launch later this year for Master Sgt. Scott Neil, Sgt. Leigh Hester, Spc. Jason Mike and Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein.

Wolford was most recently a reconnaissance platoon sergeant assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., and is currently attending Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.

A Silver Star recipient, Wolford was chosen for the program for his actions during the fight for key river crossings across the Euphrates River during offensive operations to defeat the Iraqi army in the early stages of OIF.

He repeatedly placed himself and his vehicle in direct contact with the enemy while protecting

the advance of friendly dismounted infantry. Even after he and two members of his section

sustained shrapnel wounds from RPG fire, Wolford continued to expose himself to hostile fire in order to evacuate casualties, reposition his men and redistribute weapons and equipment.

Wolford said he’s honored and humbled to be a part of the America’s Army Real Heroes Program.

“I’m hoping that through this program people can read of the experiences of myself and others and find the motivation to succeed and work harder at what they do, whether in the Army or civilian life,” he said.

Wolford also hopes the program inspires others to join the Army after seeing that “heroes” are really just ordinary people who face extraordinary situations and react in a way most people would hope to if faced with something similar.

“It’s important for people to realize Soldiers are doing the right thing and living by the values that we have had instilled in us,” he said. “Most Soldiers do exceptional acts everyday and are so seldom recognized.”

Wolford has worked closely with game developers to record his own in-game lines and ensure his character correctly conveys his story.

Like other Soldiers in the program, Wolford wants to make sure the spotlight is not on him, but rather on his team.

“With or without the recognition of the Silver Star, or anything that comes with that, when I led my men in Iraq that day on the Euphrates, I had four of my men who had received bronze stars for valor, and that validated everything that I had been taught,” he said.

Real Heroes is the 22nd addition to the America’s Army game. Players will have access to such new weapons systems as the Javelin Missile and the Crew Remote Operated Weapon Station, as well as increasing mobility, action and firepower.

The game is available for download at www.americasarmy.com.



Courtesy photo

In addition to being virtual in-game characters, the selected Soldiers are being modeled for action figures that will be sold in retail stores.



(From left) Sgt. Tommy Rieman and Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Wolford work with an America’s Army online game developer. Rieman and Wolford are being recognized through America’s Army: Real Heroes Program for showing heroism in the war on terror.

Courtesy photo

Football

Preseason games bode well for Falcons

by **KATHY JORDAN**
Contributing writer

The Vilseck High School Falcons started the football preseason off Sept. 2 with a Maroon & Gold scrimmage played at Vilseck High School, followed by a Sept. 6 game against the Hohenfels Tigers and a Sept. 9 game against Ansbach High School.

The varsity Falcons shut out the Hohenfels’ Tigers, 56-0. The Tigers scored two touchdowns to defeat the JV Falcons, 14-0.

The varsity Falcons faced off against their Ansbach opponents, each team consisting of 10 players and each team granted five plays.

During their first real game of the season, the Falcons played Mannheim, winning 9-0.

The game against the Giessen Golden Dragons German Junior Team ended in a tie, and their game against Weisbaden resulted in a 21 – 0 victory for the Falcons. The varsity Falcons followed suit to lose, 0-7, against Ansbach, and tied Manheim, 0-0.

Stats from the Sept. 9 Jamboree are:

Quarterbacks

Kollin Jordan had 14 attempts and 7 completions for a total of 93 yards with one interception.

Justin Ingram had 5 attempts and 1 completion for a total of 30 yards with one interception.

Running

Rex Ray ran for a total of 73 yards and had 2 touchdowns.

Ramone Ramirez had a total of 31 yards.

Robert Wright had a total of 13 yards.

Cordier Rogers had a total of 10 and a touchdown.

Receiving

Jamal Grant had a total of 70 yards with 2 touchdowns.

Robert Wright had 30 yards.

Justin Ingram had 11 yards.

Defense

Robert Wright and **Cordier Rogers** had 6 tackles each.

Tre White had 5.

Dextra Jonson and **Rex Ray** had 4 each

Tackles

Cordier Rogers, **Tre White** and **Dextra Johnson** had tackles for losses to their opponents.

Cordier Rogers had a sack.

Rex Ray had a fumble recovery.

Justin Ingram had an interception.

Rex Ray and **Dextra Johnson** had pass deflects against the other team.

Forced fumble by **Chris Watson**.

Vilseck Falcons Football Schedule

- Vilseck at Aviano Saturday
- Vilseck at home against Bitburg Sept. 30
- Vilseck at Wuerzburg Oct. 7
- Vilseck at Vicenza Oct. 14

Vilseck Falcons Volleyball Schedule

- Saturday at Hohenfels with Wuerzburg
- Sept. 30 Homecoming vs. Heildberg and Patch
- Oct. 7 at Aviano with Naples and Wuerzburg
- Oct. 14 at Hanau with BFA
- Oct. 21 at Patch with FIS Weisbaden
- Oct. 28 Home with Wuerzburg, Hanau, and Manneheim
- Nov. 2-4 at KMC European Championships



Visit www.oktoberfest.de and click "English" for all things Oktoberfest, including tips, directions, FAQs, and a festival dictionary to help you with phrases to order food and drinks and blend in with the locals.

*Photos by
Paula J. Guzman*

It's *THAT* time again

Oktoberfest 2006 is in full swing through Oct. 3, offering something for the whole family



by CHARLIE COON
Stars & Stripes European Edition

Oktoberfest. Like a big frat party, right? Kind of.

Yes, there are huge festival halls known as "beer tents" filled with **partiers of all ages** who sing and dance and wear silly clothes. And beer is served, most definitely; about 6.1 million liters in 2005, according to festival officials.

But Oktoberfest is **a lot like a state fair**, too. There are bunches of rides, including some outrageous ones, plus games and vendors, and even a decent selection of haunted houses. Sure, the carnival barkers are barking in German. But, hey, it's in Munich, not Iowa.

Bottom line: Oktoberfest has both a great **carnival atmosphere** that's **family-friendly** and ample venues for those seeking to join in on an **international beer bender**.

This year, the festival runs from Sept. 16 until Oct. 3. Admission is free and so is the pageantry, including parades on many of the days, usually in the morning. Everything else costs Euros.

Adventure-seekers can try high-speed, high-altitude rides the likes of which are rarely seen at the county fair back home.

Those chairs that hang by chains, spinning around like a **merry-go-round**? Try it at more than 100 feet in the air and hope the chain doesn't break. There are several roller coasters, and the Freefall speaks for itself.

But the ultimate ride is the Cyberspace, back at Oktoberfest for a second time.

This giant pendulum rocks riders back and forth, higher and higher into the sky, like a kid being pushed on a swing set. Finally it reaches its **150-foot zenith** and goes over the top, sending riders plummeting face-first to the earth and back up again, then plummeting and back up again.

Afterward, blown-away riders stumble out of their seats. A G-force of 4-6 will do that.

"That was amazing, [expletive] amazing," one Aussie said last year **as he wiped away his tears**.

"It's worth it," Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeremy Turman of St. Mawgan, England, said after paying 7 Euros for the experience.

"These rides seem more dangerous than any in any country we've been in," he added.

There are a few new features this year, according to fest spokeswoman Gabrielle Papke, including a new **haunted house** and a water-raft ride that is nearly 70 feet high.

Not that Oktoberfest needed more attractions.

For many, the main draw is the festival's 14 beer tents. Most hold from 5,000 to 10,000 people, inside and out. Three of the tents serve **alcohol-free beer**.

While people can go to the fest for free, once inside it's easy to blow money.

Last year, a 1-liter beer topped out at 7.20 Euros (this year a *Mass* will range from 6.95 to 7.50 Euros), and rides cost between 1.50 and 7 Euros.

Sausage or fish on a roll and other food offerings run between 2 and 5 Euros, while inside the beer tents, full meals of oxen or schnitzel plus side dishes cost 8.50 Euros and up. Games of chance were 2 to 3 Euros.

There is so much to see, one doesn't need to spend a thing to have a great time. Budget-minded people could probably even bring in their own food and drink.

Munich isn't down the street from any U.S. installation.

So service members, dependents, and U.S. civilians have to travel to the festival grounds, the Theresienwiese, to join in the fun. But it's doable.

Hanau, Bamberg, Giessen and Baumholder are among the military communities offering bus trips through Morale, Welfare and Recreation. USO offices, such as the one in Wiesbaden, are also organizing trips, as is the Edelweiss Hotel and Lodge in Garmisch.

For those who have cash or credit and are less constrained by time, Munich is quite reachable **by train or car**.

Hotel rooms are hard to find but usually available with some searching. They won't be found next door to the festival, and this time of year, they might be expensive. Public transportation or taxis can get you from the hotel to the fest.

The outdoorsy who have a few days off can try camping at the nearby site in Munich-Thalkirchen. There one will find young people from all over the world — passed out. The **camping is all-inclusive; tents can be rented**. Check ahead for availability. And be prepared for rain.

Beer serving times are 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The tents close at 11:30 p.m. daily, but two wine tents stay open until 1 a.m. Weekdays at Oktoberfest are usually less crowded than weekends.

